

gave much of his life to serving the public when former Senator Brock Adams passed away following a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Today, his family and friends are gathered to remember his life and legacy—and it is truly a long legacy—from fighting for civil rights to protecting the environment to standing up for people suffering from AIDS.

Brock made his commitment to public service clear early in his life by serving as student body president at the University of Washington. It was not long afterwards that he became the youngest United States attorney in the entire Nation.

Over the course of his career, Brock would go on to serve the people of Washington State in the House of Representatives and ultimately in the Senate. He also served the country, as President Jimmy Carter's Secretary of Transportation. His accomplishments in that role are epitomized by his work to help create Amtrak.

Brock will be long remembered for hard work on behalf of Washington and the Nation. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Betty and the rest of his family during this sad time.

AMERICAN YOUTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to commend and congratulate the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra of Annandale, VA on its fortieth anniversary.

The cultural and political history of the United States has changed dramatically over the last five decades. During that time, however, the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras have provided a vital service for young musicians throughout northern Virginia and the District of Columbia. The 2004–05 concert season will commemorate the 40th year in which the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras have trained new generations of children, teenagers, and young adults to become extraordinary musicians. To give an example of the marvelous impact that this institution has had, over 100 public and private schools from Washington's metropolitan area are represented within the orchestra's current enrollment. The students of the American Youth Philharmonic constantly strive for excellence in their performances; such preparation increases the chance that they will seek to make a positive impact on our society, whether through the arts or other endeavors.

With a group of approximately 400 students, the orchestra has represented Virginia and the District of Columbia with distinction in the performances at the Kennedy Center, the Festival of Youth Orchestras, and the Spoleto Festival in South Carolina. Remembering this Nation's tragic losses on September 11, 2001, the Philharmonic performed a touching concert, entitled "The Spirit of Freedom," at New

York's Carnegie Hall in January 2002. In addition to their exceptional performances in the United States, the American Youth Philharmonic was a dignified cultural ambassador for this country at the International Rachmaninoff Festival in Russia, the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Scotland, and the British Festival of Youth Orchestras. The young men and women of the orchestra have offered the diplomatic language of music to our friends abroad, and they deserve to be recognized for their efforts.

If we were to gauge the success of the American Youth Philharmonic by the rate at which its students are accepted to the best musical and educational schools in the United States, we would see that the American Youth Philharmonic is unrivaled in its training of our Nation's best and brightest. Members of the American Youth Philharmonic have continued their study of music at the Oberlin Conservatory, the Juilliard School, Carnegie Mellon, and the Cleveland Institute of Music, while others proudly accepted offers to Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, and the University of Southern California, to name a few.

Beyond the beauty of the sound generated in their performances, the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras have given their time and service to the surrounding communities of Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia. The American Youth Philharmonic created a music mentorship program that trains designed high-school members to offer free tutoring to younger musicians in the area. In this way, the students of the orchestra are able to strengthen their own abilities as teachers while providing an enriching experience to those who are limited by financial circumstances or their special needs. Recognizing the value of this community service, the First Place Arts Council of Fairfax County, VA recognized the American Youth Philharmonic with the Arts for Special Audiences Award in 2000.

We must also credit the constant dedication of Maestro Luis Haza for the brilliance of the American Youth Philharmonic. Mr. Haza has given 20 years of service to this ensemble in addition to his 29 years of ongoing performance as a violinist with the esteemed National Symphony Orchestra. Born in Santiago, Cuba, Mr. Haza was honored with a Washington Immigrant Achievement Award in 2004, and he truly demonstrates a commitment to the values of democracy and freedom on which this country was founded. While Mr. Haza has shared his talent for musical direction with the London Symphony Orchestra, our own National Symphony Orchestra, and the national orchestras of Panama, El Salvador, and Guatemala, his passion for music is never more evident than in his direction of the American Youth Philharmonic. Mr. Haza has dedicated a lifetime to sharing the gift of music with young people throughout the

Americas, and his legacy to this country will be reflected in the values of his students for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE BRUNSTAD

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I congratulate one of my Connecticut constituents, George Brunstad, on an extraordinary achievement. A few weeks ago, George, a resident of Ridgefield, became the oldest person to swim across the English Channel.

George, who celebrated his 70th birthday on August 25, began his record-breaking swim three days later when he left Dover, England shortly after 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 28. He reached Sangatte, on the French coast, after midnight on Sunday, completing the 21-mile stretch in 15 hours and 59 minutes. Prior to George, the oldest person to swim the Channel was Clifford Batts, who was about 100 days shy of his 68th birthday.

Let me tell my colleagues a little about George Brunstad. He is a retired Air Force pilot who flew B-52 bombers. For 20 years, he piloted jumbo jets for American Airlines. Currently, he is a swim coordinator for children at the YMCA in Wilton, CT, where he is affectionately known as "Grandpa George." George and his wife Judy are active members of the Wilton Baptist Church, where George serves as a Deacon. For 20 years, George has been associated with Pivot Ministries, a group that helps men who are recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

While George was on the swim team in college, he had been away from the sport for 20 years before he saw a sign at the Wilton YMCA advertising competitive swimming for adults. That was 31 years ago, and George Brunstad hasn't stopped swimming since. He is a World Masters Open Water Swimming Champion and has won more than 100 national championship medals in U.S. Masters Swimming.

But George Brunstad's feat last month was much more than an athletic achievement. Last year, George and Judy traveled on a mission to the island nation of Haiti with their church. They were appalled by the incredible poverty that continues to afflict that nation. They were particularly saddened by the large numbers of homeless children they saw in Haiti. And they decided to do what they could to help those children.

George and Judy are founding members of the board of directors of the Center of Hope, an organization devoted to building an orphanage and school in the Haitian city of Hinche. Hinche has 80,000 people, most of whom are desperately poor and lack basic needs like clean water, shelter, medical care, transportation, and education.

George decided that his swim across the Channel would be a perfect way to raise money for the Center of Hope. In total, he managed to raise over \$11,000. As someone who has been to Haiti numerous times, and as a Senator who

has done his best to try to direct our attention to Haiti's dire needs, I'm particularly pleased that George Brunstad chose to turn his moment of personal triumph into one that will help better the lives of some of the residents of an impoverished nation only a few hundred miles from our shores.

This coming weekend, the Wilton Baptist Church and the Center of Hope will be holding a special celebration in George's honor. I send George, Judy, their family, and all those who will be attending the celebration my best wishes, and my enthusiastic congratulations.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has agreed by unanimous consent to pass a substitute amendment to the Federal Trade Commission Reauthorization Act, S. 1234. The bill would reauthorize the Federal Trade Commission in furtherance of its mission to enhance the efficient operation of the marketplace by both eliminating acts or practices that are unfair or deceptive and preventing anti-competitive conduct. Further, the legislation would authorize funding for the FTC through 2008, and enhance the Commission's ability to combat international—or cross-border—fraud.

In addition to reauthorizing this vital consumer protection agency for the period 2005 through 2008, the bill, as amended, is also designed to mitigate the challenges that the FTC increasingly faces in combating cross-border fraud. The FTC's consumer protection responsibilities are essential, particularly in today's global climate of high-speed information and marketing, which know no international borders.

This legislation is crucial to the FTC's ability to protect American consumers by authorizing the Commission to: Share information involving cross-border fraud with foreign consumer protection agencies; secure confidential information from those foreign agencies; work in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice to seek redress for American consumers in foreign courts; make criminal referrals to the DOJ for cross-border criminal activity; and generally strengthen its relationship with foreign consumer protection agencies.

Under the FTC's current authority the agency is not able to exchange information with its foreign counterparts to shut down consumer scams originating outside the United States, but perpetrated against American consumers. As a consequence, the FTC is left without the ability to seek redress on behalf of defrauded consumers. In addition, the FTC is not currently considered a "market regulator," and thus, banking agencies may not share suspicious consumer information with the FTC. As a result, the FTC is not able to trade funds derived from illegal Internet schemes sent through U.S. banks and placed in offshore bank accounts. Thus, those who devise and

carry out such schemes are too often allowed to escape the grasp of the FTC. But even if the FTC were able to share information with its foreign counterparts and market regulators, the FTC would be unable to litigate consumer protection cases in foreign courts.

While these are descriptions of merely a few gaps in the FTC's current international consumer protection authority, they underscore how vulnerable American consumers are to cross-border fraud. This legislation would fill these and other gaps in the FTC's current international consumer protection authority, and allow the FTC to function more effectively in carrying out its Congressional mandate to protect American consumers.

This bill, as amended, would also grant authority to the FTC to provide investigative and other services to a requesting domestic law enforcement agency and receive from that agency, if offered, reimbursement for the FTC's involvement. Finally, the amendment would provide to the Commission the authority it has requested to receive gifts or items that would be useful to the Commission as long as a conflict of interest is not created by such receipt.

The underlying bill was considered and reported unanimously last year by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Since being placed on the Senate Calendar, its provisions have been thoroughly vetted on a bipartisan basis with the multiple federal agencies that have a vested interest in its enactment. We have worked with and received sign off from each affected agency on this substitute amendment.

REPUBLICAN HIGH TECH TASK FORCE

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the critical role of technology and innovation in maintaining our Nation's security and prosperity in the future. Technology and the intellectual property that accompanies it is the very lynchpin of our modern economy. Technology is changing all the rules, from the way we do business to how we communicate. It is saving lives, and it is protecting our homeland. In recognition of the critical role that technology plays in the lives of all Americans, Majority Leader BILL FRIST has made technology a top priority by devoting significant time and resources to the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force which serves as the focal point for technology-related issues in the United States Senate.

I have been honored to serve as the chairman of the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force during the 108th Congress. I have been privileged to meet the leading innovators of our great Nation and talk directly to the employees who have made technology their career and are delivering every day the promise of the new "next big thing."

The work of the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force increases in importance each day, as technology be-

comes ever more a part of our lives. It is the responsibility of the Task Force to be leaders on technology issues in the Senate. We are tasked by the majority leader to reach out to the technology community to listen and learn and then advise our colleagues and lead on legislation related to this important sector of our economy. And we have been very successful this year. Senate Republican High Tech Task Force members have passed important legislation that protects technology and helps foster continued innovation. Just a few of the many accomplishments in the past few months include the following: Senator ALLEN has championed intellectual property protection and has utilized his position with the Committee on Foreign Affairs to ensure that American intellectual property is protected abroad and that overseas piracy of copyrighted materials is fought to the fullest extent possible. Senator ALLEN was also successful in passing legislation out of the Senate to keep State, local, and Federal tax collectors from driving up the cost of broadband with Internet access taxes.

Senator GRASSLEY has championed free trade agreements with Singapore, Chile and Australia. Free trade is the life blood of our economy and ensuring that American companies are able to access new markets on a fair footing with all appropriate intellectual property protections creates and protects American jobs.

Senator SUNUNU has led Senate efforts in protecting nascent voice over internet protocol technology which promises to provide new data services for businesses and consumers, fundamentally changing the way we look at phone service.

Senator BURNS worked tirelessly to successfully secure passage of the CAN-SPAM Act which was passed unanimously by the United States Senate. Unsolicited commercial e-mails are overwhelming our telecommunications infrastructure and costing Americans productivity and now, more alarmingly, affecting their confidence in online transactions. The CAN-SPAM Act was a successful first step, and the Task Force will continue to work to restore confidence and protect American consumers from SPAM.

Senator SMITH and I have been successful in seeing the Invest in the USA Act passed out of the Senate. This important legislation will bring back a cash infusion of over \$400 billion to be reinvested in America and create over 600,000 American jobs. This will allow money that American companies earn overseas to be brought back to the United States where it can create jobs and grow our economy.

My colleagues and I have been very busy during the 108th Congress. We have visited technology centers around the United States and met with top innovators and the most talented employees in the world. The work of the High Tech Task Force will continue through the remainder of this session and into the 109th Congress.